Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, a nonprofit organization, had a vision to build a memorial to Vietnam veterans commonly called "The Wall"; and,

Whereas, With the guidance of Jan C. Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the effort gradually gained support of Vietnam veterans, politicians and thousands of Americans and "The Wall" was completed in 2 years in Constitution Gardens in Washington, D.C., through private donations from the public; and,

Whereas, March 26, 2007, marked the 25th Anniversary of the groundbreaking of "The Wall," and events will continue throughout the year to celebrate; and,

Whereas, The designer, Maya Lin, believed that "the politics had eclipsed the veterans, their service and their lives," so she kept the design elegantly simple to "allow everyone to respond and remember"; and,

Whereas, The Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors the men and women who served when their nation called upon them, and sets aside the controversies of the war; and,

Whereas, "The Wall," which currently honors 58,249 veterans, is also a living document, as the number can change every Memorial Day if the Department of Veterans Affairs receives additional information; and,

Whereas, Since it was first created, "The Wall" has evolved into something more than a monument of stone--it is also a place of healing for those affected by one of the most divisive wars in our nation's history:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim 2007 as

THE YEAR OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirtieth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State